

H.E. John W. Ashe
President of the UN General Assembly
United Nations, New York
Email: fullerf@un.org

1 April 2014

Dear Excellency Ashe,

On behalf of the North American Indigenous Peoples' Caucus (NAIPC) to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), we reference our previous correspondence of 4 March 2014 to you, and we transmit the present communication. NAIPC is the representative body from the region we refer to as Great Turtle Island (Canada and United States), with members from scores of Indigenous peoples, nations, alliances, and non-governmental organizations. Our members participate actively in all UN organs concerned with issues affecting Indigenous Peoples, including the UNPFII, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Our NAIPC annual meeting was convened in Kamloops, Secwepemc Territory, British Columbia, Canada, 1-2 March 2014. At the meeting, a consensus decision was reached regarding the proposed High Level Plenary Meeting (HLPM), to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Issues, scheduled for September, 2014. The decision concluded that because the modalities that were adopted by the UN for the HLPM did not respect the full, equal and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples with UN state members, NAIPC called for the cancellation of the HLPM, and withdrew from further participation in the planning or organization of the HLPM.

NAIPC is aware that your office circulated a new framework design on 17 March 2014, but nothing in that framework has caused NAIPC to alter its previous decision about the inadequacies of the HLPM organization, facilitation and outcome document structure. Similarly, NAIPC is aware that some regional indigenous caucuses have transmitted to you nominations/recommendations, pursuant to the 17 March framework, for aides to your office in the HLPM process.

We note that a group nomination letter that was delivered to your office yesterday, omits mention of the North American region, or our position on this matter. We take this opportunity to make explicit that the NAIPC decision, outlined in our 4 March communication to you, remains in tact. Pursuant to our position, we expressly withhold endorsement, and inform you that NAIPC is not part of any consensus of regional Indigenous Peoples' caucuses, to advance nominations for any candidates to serve as "Aides" to you in the HLPM process. We dispute any suggestion, or implication, that a unified Indigenous Peoples' position has been achieved on these matters.

We hope that this communication clarifies our ongoing position regarding the HLPM, the proposed framework, and the actual HLPM meeting. We remain available to discuss any issues that might arise regarding the position of the Indigenous Peoples of the North American Indigenous Peoples' Caucus, or to answer any questions that you might have regarding our communications with you.

Sincerely, for all our relations,

Debra Harry and Janice Makokis
Co-Chairs
North American Indigenous Peoples' Caucus

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